



A DIRECT WORD FOR THOSE WHO "WANT TO KNOW"

From the Foreign Mission Fields as of March 1st, 1920

By FRANK MASON NORTH

THE NEW FINANCIAL STATUS.

The Centenary was a great achievement. What is it achieving in the foreign fields of the Methodist Episcopal Church?

The income for the year ending October 31st, 1919, was increased by the Centenary offerings which became effective as such July 1st, 1919, to a total of \$5,352,973, approximately 175 per cent. more than the total income of the previous year. From this total income all the obligations, regular and special, to the fields were covered, a serious situation due to the condition of foreign exchange in India and China was met, and *the entire cost to the Foreign Board of the Promotion of the Centenary was paid.*

THE PROGRAM FOR 1920.

The Board at its Annual Meeting in December made actual appropriations of \$5,352,973, the same amount as that received the previous year, it being forbidden, by a rule in its constitution, to appropriate in any one year more than the amount received the year before. Since, however, the total expected under the Centenary offerings for the year is \$10,500,000, the Board gave power to the Executive Committee to authorize the Treasurer to make advances of an additional amount to each field up to a total of \$5,147,027, such authorizations to be made upon the basis of representation from the fields as to specific preferred projects in the field program and upon the condition that funds are available or in sight. The several mission fields therefore are making their plans upon the basis of the total expected income of \$10,500,000 for the year 1920, and any failure to realize that amount would create most serious disappointment and confusion.

HOW ARE THE FUNDS BEING USED?

First: As a preventive of disaster the Centenary has been already a most brilliant success.

The Board was never in a more secure and sound condition than when it approached the hundredth anniversary of Methodist foreign missions. It had for six years created no deficit, had added somewhat each year to its appropriations to the fields, had kept its administrative and cultivation expenses at a low percentage of the total receipts, and at the end of that time had liquidated the debt of over \$121,000 with which the period began. The missionaries on the field had been increased by from seventy-five to one hundred and the membership of the foreign churches had gained over twenty per cent.

This was all true. But, while Centenary enthusiasm was rising, exchange in India and China was falling. Today it requires a dollar and thirty cents in India, and more than two dollars in China, to do what one dollar would do three years ago. Transportation costs are from one-half to three-fourths more and necessities of life in most of the



fields have increased relatively more than in America, while the margin in missionary income is less than in the corresponding station here. The aggregate of these insistent demands ran up to many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

We did not know it, but the Centenary was timed to meet the most serious financial crisis our Missionary Society and its successor, The Board of Foreign Missions, have ever known.

Second: The docket of the mission fields was crowded with unfinished business. Institutions had been projected, land bought and partly paid for, material gathered for foundations not yet laid, buildings planned and built but in part, coöperation tentatively agreed to, but ineffective for lack of funds, work outlined and untouched because of inadequate staff, wide fields fenced, but fallow, awaiting the plow and the worker, everywhere a vital, expectant, progressive company of devoted missionaries, steady at their posts, ready for advance, and waiting, waiting for supplies and reënforcements from the Home base.

Here was a great system of organized service—halted in mid-action. The Centenary is filling the channels, is pouring water on the wheels, is putting in the foundations and lifting the walls, and everywhere valiant, devoted, patient missionaries are finding their dreams coming true.

As a force for conservation and completion the Centenary is indeed a great achievement.

Third: The mission world is new because of the funds of the Centenary. Little ventures have developed into wide, wise, comprehensive programs. Expert study of China, India, Latin-America, Africa and Europe, stimulated and supported by the Centenary, for months has been going forward. We have had surveys, we are now getting blue prints. In the program placed so vividly before the Church in the Centenary Campaign were new institutions, colleges, schools, hospitals, orphanages, new services—literature, social influence, industrial training, physical betterment; a larger evangelism—better churches, Sunday School organization, a system of itinerating; in everything, a stronger staff, greater efficiency, higher ideals. Rapidly these aims and ambitions of the hearts of faith are pressing toward realization. These new projects must have freedom in time and space. There are obstacles; they will not yield to sudden attack. There must be preparation; it may be hastened, but not disregarded. We seek the product, but first the plan must be assured. Many of the projects are already under way. More and still more, as the new day grows, will the Church see the outlines of its purpose lifted against the far away horizons.

The Centenary achieves for the foreign fields prevention of disaster, completion of the existing enterprise, but, far beyond this, the new constructive program which will give among the peoples of the world a place of action for the Gospel of our Lord for a thousand years.

A MEMORANDUM OF FACTS FROM THE FIELDS.

This list of events and projects is not exhaustive. Some of the items are authorized, others are in process, still others are completed. All depend upon Centenary funds and are based upon the confidence that the church will redeem with enthusiasm its pledges.

Europe

Relief Work: For eight months, money, food, clothing, shoes, medical supplies, have been going forward for the relief of the suffering in the countries of Europe. The chief objective has been the children and their mothers. This relief has reached Finland, some Russian refugees, the Baltic provinces (Latvia, Estonia, Lithuania, etc.), France, Italy, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Rumania, Bulgaria, Jugo-Slavia. In its varied phases it represents an outlay of approximately \$600,000.

Northern Europe: The debts on our property in Finland have been paid, over 90,000 Finnish marks or about \$39,000. A fine property worth twice the price has been bought in Wiberg for \$30,000. The three Scandinavia countries under the stimulus of the deputation which visited them last summer have set up capital Centenary programs, asking the Home Church to give them dollar for dollar for what they will raise. The Executive Committee has agreed to do this up to the amount of \$100,000 for each. This pledge is being called for, as in the case of the purchase of property at Malmö and aid for most worthy projects in other places. Provision is being made for coöperation in the Baltic States as soon as proposals become concrete and are approved.

Central Europe: In *France*, the financial investment includes the following: Improvement of the orphanage properties at Charvieu and Ecully; the purchase of plots with buildings for the social and evangelistic program, at Cannes, Toulon, Marseilles, Chateau Thierry, Lyons, and at towns in the Savoy. Other important transactions are pending. To care for the work of construction and of actual service, the staff has been increased. Special grants have been made for the French Methodist Church, for the development of the plans of the American Chapel in Paris, for the special social service training school of Rev. Paul Doumerque, for relief of an orphanage at Bordeaux, for the proposed training school for nurses at Lille, and for the reconstruction and relief program of the French Protestant churches, our grant being made in connection with those of other American Evangelical denominations. In addition to the special relief sent to our fellow Methodists in the Central powers, one million marks have been provided and an equal amount promised for the payment of debts upon properties in Germany and special grants are pending for substantial help in Austria and Hungary. The debt on the church at Varna, Bulgaria, has been met. In *Switzerland* where it is believed Methodism must become more strongly entrenched in view of both ecclesiastical and political adjustments a most important property for social and philanthropic work has just been purchased.

Southern Europe: The work opened in *Spain* includes two centers, schools in Seville and Alicante. Only at the latter point has property been acquired, in cost about \$15,000. In *Italy*, the actual investments include the betterment of the Palazzo, the purchase of the school property in the Via Garibaldi, of a property for the Bible Training School, extensive additions to the remarkable site on Monte Mario, a villa near Naples for the Casa Materna, the orphanage. In the north, a site in Genoa for church and community service, a new site in Florence, available plots and buildings in Pistoia, Trent, and Gorizia, enlargement of the orphanage property in Venice, and repairs to the badly damaged church in Udine. In most of these cases partial payments have been made; in some cases cash for the total price has been required.

For the most part these enterprises in Europe are considered as belonging to the program for War Emergency and Reconstruction and the costs are charged to that Fund, without which no such significant service for conservation in Europe could have been made.

North Africa

In the missionary appropriations, North Africa is classed with Europe. The pledged funds which have made advance in Europe possible have given impulse and strength to our work in North Africa. Without attempting to describe them, the projects are as follows: purchase of an important property in Algiers (city) for native work; completion of purchase of property for the Boys' Hostel; in Kabylia, land at Fort National and a mission center at El Maten, taken over from the French Methodists; at Constantine, completion of purchase of two fine properties, a residence and a Boys' Hostel; in Tunis, final payment on the Boys' Hostel and the purchase of a new center for evangelistic and social work in the heart of the city; promotion of plans for Oran and for new work in Morocco.

Africa

The outstanding objectives in Africa at this writing are: the building and equipment of three hospitals, one of which is nearly completed, in Rhodesia, Inhambane, and the Belgian Congo; the erection of suitable houses for our missionaries in these three missions; the equipment, with buildings and staff, of the center at Johannesburg from which to shepherd our constituency on the Rand; the purchase of a farm property between Elizabethville and Kambove, as the site for the Institute which is planned for Central Africa; one such Institute being planned for each conference; the development in real strength of the schools, the college, and the Bible School in Liberia, in harmony with the plans of the lamented Bishop Camphor; and the increase of staff and resources for all these fields which in spite of the devotion of many decades are still in urgent need of the Church's money and men and prayers.

The Centenary has made reënforcements possible. Some are on their way; we need more. Instructions and funds have gone forward for the building of hospitals and homes and other investments. An expert study of educational conditions in the Congo is to be made, in the promotion of which the Centenary permits our Board to participate.

In the more rapid summary which follows, it is in my mind that the Church is far more familiar with the great fields concerned than with the new and little known work already noted. In all these fields the processes outlined for the Centenary program are going forward rapidly and resistlessly.

Japan and Korea

In *Japan*: strengthening staff and property interests at Aoyama for the great school and college and the Theological school; purchase of property at Hakata for a strong church center; building up the church and social institute at Akonoura, a shipping and industrial community across the bay from Nagasaki; securing property at Maebara, Kyushu; developing the church and social settlement in Asakusa, Tokyo; placing missionaries once more in Hirosaki and Hakodate, and pressing the evangelistic work. In *Korea* special advance is checked by political conditions. We are prepared to press forward two new buildings for Pai Chai, our boys' school in Seoul, to build chapel and social center for Chosen Christian College; to provide new missionaries' residences. The disaster to the home of Bishop and Mrs. Welch, which was recently completely destroyed by fire, must be repaired, and the

cost of rebuilding the Theological School which suffered in like manner a year or more ago must be met in our partnership with the Methodist Episcopal Church, South. Important to the Korean Christians, who have subscribed most generously for the building of the small churches which are in the Centenary program for their homeland is the payment of the pledges from the Home Base. The strong program for Korea will go forward in its completeness as soon as political conditions permit.

China

The Centenary has made possible the adequate participation of the Methodist Episcopal Church in the four great union universities in China. Obligations have been assumed for the necessary increases of staff, and for our share in capital investment for grounds and buildings. The larger plans for land and buildings for the Anglo-Chinese College at Foochow are already in process. The secondary schools in the several centers are shaping their programs upon the bases of the Centenary, and requisitions for funds must be met. The hospitals at Peking, Changli, Taian, Wuhu, Chungking, Chengtu, Nanking, and other points,—union, coöperative, or entirely our own,—have programs which are working rapidly toward large use of funds which Centenary income must supply. Only two or three weeks since drafts for \$40,000 from North China were honored. The China Medical Board coöperates dollar for dollar for the buildings, equipment, and staff at Wuhu. They are ready to advance; we plan to go forward. A new Conference has been created of the Amoy-speaking Chinese, formerly in the Hinghwa Conference. The funds to promote the schools and churches are required and will be sent on. The rapid growth of work in Yenping Conference is stimulated by the Centenary pledges and the money is required. Institutional churches are being developed at Foochow, Nanking, and Nanchang, and are planned for six other cities. For Nanchang an appropriation of \$20,000 has been made for the present year. Certain phases of work hitherto maintained by special gifts come now for support upon the Centenary funds.

China has a great program which is in large part the expansion of its regular work and that expansion claims at once, aside from specific projects, the funds which the Church has promised. The pressure of these needs and the response to them are not spectacular; they are constant and become a routine of fine development which the Centenary has made possible. Authorization has been given for the purchase of property in Shanghai where the Bishop and a small colony of missionaries must have residences. \$25,000 have been allocated to the school for missionaries children as our share in the participation—a most important enterprise. The promotion of literature is receiving a generous support. The general education work is being promoted.

An expanding program in China is being even now developed, and the individual projects which stand out more vividly in our imagination will from time to time appear with their urgent appeal.

South Eastern Asia

The immediate projects in this great area, aside from the increase of staff which in Malaysia and the Netherlands Indies, is imperative, are educational. For Singapore to forward the Anglo-Chinese College for which \$500,000 from the Home Base were placed in the Centenary askings, requisition for one-tenth of that amount has been already made. The secondary schools in the Straits Settlement are in greatest need of better equipment, staff, and curricula and this all means money which must straightway be provided, if the schools are to maintain their standing with the British Educational authorities. The staff for evangelistic work among Mohammedans is being enlarged; missionaries being in preparation in this country to be sent out this year. In the Philippines, operations for schools and hostels are pending and the project of a union college is urged. Already advances have

been made to the Netherlands Indies for several pressing institutional needs and the program for hospital expansion on a larger scale is now being developed. Soon concrete proposals will be before us and they are sure to have in them the financial content. The plans call for nine hospitals, one sanitarium and ten doctors. The Dutch Government will provide three-fourths of the cost of hospitals and staff.

India

The Centenary made possible largely increased appropriations to India. These go forward month by month. Special attention is being given to the mass movement areas and to the Training Schools in connection with the village work. The new proposals in educational policy for India mean unmistakably for the Methodist missions the development of our schools to a point of unexcelled efficiency, both in standards of work and in character of personnel.

In the total Centenary askings for India, \$3,219,441 were set down for education. Of this the sum of \$1,554,951 is assigned to additional property and equipment, \$717,490 for maintenance and \$947,000 for endowment. The program, which is now being set in motion, includes the opening of many additional village schools, the building of hundreds of houses for Christian teachers who are to be sent out into the villages, the erection of additional missionary residences for the staff that will be required, the increased plant and equipment for primary and secondary education, the replacing of Hindu and Mohammedan teachers by Christian men, the founding of scholarships for Christian students. To all this must be added a satisfactory policy and provision for the very complex work of the industrial institutions.

Under the executive leadership of Dr. B. T. Badley, Indian Methodism is promoting a great Centenary program to culminate in the fall of 1921. This the Home Base Centenary is stimulating with funds and counsel. The extraordinary work of E. Stanley Jones among the high-class Hindus and Mohammedans is maintained by Centenary funds. The slowly but surely developing centers at Delhi and Ghaziabad look to the Centenary for early financing. In Burma new school property has been bought. The Madras press buildings partly destroyed by fire must be restored so that with the press at Lucknow a Christian Literature program, properly endowed, may be set up as a permanent force among these people of many languages and dialects. School property at Lahore is long overdue. The appeal for new missionaries is insistent. We are sending them as fast as we can get them. When the revised budgets, made up on the basis of the actual appropriations, appear, it will be more clear than now just what are the preferences in special projects; that they will be listed up to the full provision of appropriation and authorization no one doubts. At the Home Base we must be prepared for them and that means, not pledges, not surveys, but—*Funds.*

Latin-America

There is Costa Rica, our latest mission field, ready for new land and school building. Panama is putting on a larger and more effective program. In Mexico we must meet the requisition for the Union Theological School property in Mexico City, for the properties taken over from the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, for the new properties at Guanajuato, and Queretara, and other investments authorized for which payment is or is soon to be due. There is the new medical work in Mexico City. Five new missionaries are to go out this year. The South American projects are familiar; the property and equipment for schools in La Paz and Cochabamba, in Lima and Iquique, in Santiago and

Concepcion, the Bunster Farm of 3,700 acres, with its great industrial possibilities in training Chilean peons in modern agricultural methods, the educational projects in the Argentine and Uruguay, "the social institution" in Montevideo, the larger agricultural enterprise at Mercedes, the general plan for Medical work, including five hospitals for one of which in La Paz property has already been purchased; and the proposal for presses and literature, some of them to be developed in coöperation with other denominations, the new mission to the Indians, and the tentative program for re-entering Ecuador for which the first appropriation has been made. These are no longer dreams; they are a part of the program of progress in South America, and, though, but two months of 1920 have gone by, the enthusiasm in the leadership of South America for ready funds is pronounced and immediate. If that enthusiasm is honored, the Board's treasury must be supplied promptly and generously.

Here, then, for the foreign fields of our Church is the meaning, in present day terms, of the Centenary achievement. Christendom in its history since the first century has not known a greater movement. Under its sweep the foreign mission enterprise for the Methodist Church ceases to be a venture and becomes a program. We are in the first months of that program. To push it forward to success will require inexorable patience, undaunted courage, the joy of self-sacrifice, faith that rests upon an Eternal Strength, and the unshaken confidence of the Church in itself and in its Divine Leader. But, if we will, all these are ours!

